

2018

A
S E R M O N

Preached at the

English Church,

A T
R O T T E R D A M,

ON FEBRUARY 29, 1764.

Being the Day appointed for Publick Thanksgiving, Fasting, and Prayer.

BY THE
STATES of HOLLAND
 $\frac{1}{V}$
AND
WEST FRIESLAND.

By THOMAS GREAVES. K

L O N D O N:

Printed for T. FIELD, at the Wheat Sheaf, the Corner
of Pater-noster-Row, Cheap-side.

MDCCCLXIV.

685

A
S E R M O N

Presented at the

English Church,

R O T T E R D A M.

ON FEBRUARY 20, 1704.

Being the Day appointed for giving Thanks
for the Recovery of the City of Rotterdam.



S T A T E S O F H O L L A N D

A N D

W E S T F R I E S L A N D.

By THOMAS GREENE

L O N D O N :

Printed for T. Fries, at the White Star, the Corner
of New-Street & Row, Chancery.

MDCCLIV.

A D V E R T I S E M E N T .



Advertisement.

AS I am informed the following Discourse has given birth to a Variety of Reports, being turned into Ridicule by some, and by others represented as containing Reflections highly injurious to the Honour of this celebrated Republick; I have been prevailed upon by some intimate Friends, to whose Judgement, and Opinion I pay great Deference, to print it in order to remove any ill Impressions that may have been entertained against me; at the same Time hoping the candid Reader will
over-

ADVERTISEMENT.

overlook those Inaccuracies he may meet with, as it was not composed with the least View to the Press. I have only to add, that it would not have been delayed so long, but for some Circumstances which it was impossible for me to see or prevent.

Thomas Greaves.

ROTTERDAM,
April 10, 1764.



PSALM CXLVII. 18, 19, 20.

*He causeth his Wind to blow, and
the Waters flow. He sheweth his
Word unto Jacob, his Statutes and
his Judgements unto Israel. He
hath not dealt so with any Nation:
and as for his Judgements, they
have not known them. Praise ye
the Lord.*



IT is evident that the greatest
Blessings and Enjoyments of
Life often become dull and
insipid because they are com-
mon, and are seldom grate-
fully regarded longer than
they are new, but whether this be owing
B most

most to the Perverseness or Inattention of Men, I will not take upon me to say.

If their Perverseness be the Occasion of this Conduct, it is a most aggravated Crime and calls for the speediest Repentance and Reformation, as it flies in the Face of every Dictate of Common Sense and Justice, and is in every Respect the very reverse of what might reasonably be expected of dependant Creatures. If it is to be ascribed to Inattention how great is the Folly, and how amazing the Lethargy, which cannot be overcome by a rich Variety of Benefits, each of which separately considered, should fill us with Transport, and when united justly challenge our warmest Praises to the generous Donor? Let the Cause however be what it will, the Fact is most certain, and Men are often obliged to the Evils of Life, to give them proper Sentiments of its Goods. Pain is conducive to the Happiness of our Being, and Sickness alone places Health, in its most agreeable Point of View. Labour alone lends Pleasure to Repose, and Danger is necessary to give a lively Relish to a State of Safety, the near Prospect of Bondage and

and Chains enhances our Passion for Liberty, and the Miseries of War, serve to sweeten the Blessings of Peace. When the gentle Stream of Life flows on smoothly ruffled by no Storms, tossed by no violent Commotions, we are insensible of its Course. A Series of happy Occurrences, render them wholly unheeded; hence it comes to pass, that those Ranks of Men, who possess Prosperity and Affluence, and seem designed for the Happiness of others, are frequently the most miserable in themselves, and by their Conduct, seem least mindful of their Sovereign Benefactor.

Pity and Compassion, are Affections that don't frequently abound, or at least in very languid Degrees, in those who are possessed of Plenty and Opulence, and though one would naturally expect, that those should have the tenderest Feelings, who have experienced the most Ease, yet in fact the Contrary is evident; and both sympathy with Men, and Gratitude to God, are the liveliest, where there have been the most frequent Interruptions, of a State of Safety, and Repose; but does the Certainty of the Fact or its commonness vindicate the Crime

itself? No! Can any Thing be more unreasonable than a thankless negligent Spirit? There cannot. — Men complain of their Evils because they are not used to them, and they are insensible of their Felicity, because it flows in a regular Succession, and is renewed every Moment.

— Gratitude, however, is a noble Feeling
 — wherever it arises, and should be zealously
 — cultivated on every Occasion of Life, therefore let us not loose the present fair Opportunity of exercising and improving the noble
 — Principle, but let us be truly thankful, for
 — the Blessings of Peace, Truth, and Liberty,
 — which we are called upon this Day by the
 — Voice of publick Authority, and in Compliance too, I hope, with our own good Inclinations to acknowledge and celebrate. For God hath not dealt so with any Nation, and as for his Judgements we have not known them, praise ye the Lord.

I purpose, God willing, to treat this Passage of Scripture in the following Manner.

I. I will a little consider the Design and Connection of it.

II. Take

II. Take a general Survey of the happy Lot of this Country, compared with some of *the Nations* around us.

III. Point out the Uses we ought to make of such Representations as these, or suggest some Thoughts that may be more particularly suitable to this Day's Solemnity.

I. Let us consider the Design and Connection of these Words.

The Author of this Psalm, has set before us an excellent Pattern in what manner we should celebrate the Blessings of Providence to our Country, though who he was, and to what particular Period of the Jewish Prosperity it alluded, I cannot pretend to say. However, it is certain, there were many *Æras* in the History of that Nation in which these Descriptions of their peculiar Felicity and Distinction were strictly true. God chose them to be his peculiar People, to transmit down his Religion and Worship, to all succeeding Generations. He attended their Marches with the
Tokens

Tokens of his Prefence, crowned their Arms with unexpected Victory, drove the Nations before them, and fixed their Empire in a pleasant, rich, and fertile Land; he settled the Bars of their Gates, and blessed their Children within them, he made Peace in their Borders and filled them with the finest of the Wheat, and then it is added in the 15th Verse, He sendeth forth his Commandment upon Earth, his Word runneth very swiftly, he giveth the Snow like Wool, he scattereth the hoar Frost like Ashes, he casteth forth his Ice like Morfels and who can stand before his Cold? He sendeth out his Word and melteth them, he causeth the Wind to blow, and the Waters flow.

It may be proper to observe here, that Winds from their various and powerful Effects upon this Globe, may be considered among the chief Instruments of Omnipotent Power, in dispensing Vengeance or Mercy to Mankind, and therefore the Direction of them is most properly ascribed to Providence.

It must be universally allowed, that Winds are highly necessary to clear and purify and to dry the Earth, to transpose
Clouds

Clouds and navigate Ships, and they have a considerable Influence over the Tides of the Sea, and the Flux of Rivers, * they are instrumental in drawing the Waters which often deluge a whole Country, in a Word they are the Wings on which Commerce and all the Blessings attending it are wafted round the World.

In the 19th Verse it is said, God sheweth his Word unto Jacob, his Statutes and his Judgements unto Israel, he never dealt so as to external Blessings with any Nation, and as to his sacred Discoveries and Instructions, no other Lands were favoured with them, which strongly pointed out and enforced the Obligations of national Gratitude and united Hallelujahs. Praise ye the Lord.

Well might a Jew, much more a Jewish King or Priest exult in such a Survey of his favoured Country, and at once take a Patriot Pleasure and breathe a Spirit of holy Praise, when he saw a whole People so remarkably distinguished by the Providence of God for that Peace, Liberty and Plenty, which

* Vid. Derham's Physic. Theol. 7 Edit. cap. II. p. 14. London 1727.

which were denied to the Nations around them.

This was a just Foundation for the Psalmist's Rejoicing, and his Call to Praise; and will not a Similarity of Circumstances in many Respects demand proportionable Acknowledgements from the Inhabitants of this Country? If Hollanders can adopt the Jewish Poet's Language, and say on a strict Survey, he hath not dealt so with any other Nation, sure they have great Reason to praise the Lord.

I proceed therefore to shew in the second Place, that on an impartial Survey of the Conduct of Providence to this Land, considered in itself, and in a comparative View of it with several other Nations, the Inhabitants thereof have Reason to borrow the Words for themselves, and to own he *hath not dealt so with any Nation.*

I would not be thought to insinuate that we are in the same Manner and for the same Purposes distinguished by Providence as the Jewish Nation, but only that, on a careful Review of God's Mercies, we have great Reason to offer him the Fruit of our Lips, giving Thanks to his Name.

I shall

I shall not attempt to prove that we have any exclusive Title to the Favour of Providence in consequence of our superior Virtue and Piety, neither shall I magnify our Advantages at the Expence of other Nations, which are under the Care and Protection of the same Governor of the World. I might draw some strong Traces of Resemblance betwixt this Country and that of Judea, with Respect to those miraculous Events, which conspired for our Recovery from the Tyranny of a worse than Egyptian Yoke; but I shall confine myself more particularly to those Advantages which arises from our Situation, Commerce, Freedom and Religion, which are undoubtedly superior to most other Nations of the World, these you are all Judges of, because you know them by happy Experience, and these ought to be the Subjects of your constant Gratitude to the great Ruler of the World.

In the following,

I. I would take notice of the happy Situation of this Country.—“ Happy Situation some will perhaps say.

C

Was

Was it not not at first born out of the Sea? Is it not maintained thereby? Is not the Soil of it naturally wet and marshy, especially in the maritime Provinces? Is it not rendered habitable by great Labour, and supported at a vast Expence? Can this be reckoned a happy Situation? Yes, It is happy in the Enjoyment of a temperate Climate, being placed between the severe Extreames of Heat and the Rigours of Cold; our Summers never scorch us with the intense Heats of the Equator, nor our Winters benumb us with the intolerable Freezings of the Pole, yet the one is sufficient to ripen into perfection the Productions of Nature, and the other to answer the great Purposes of Rest and Repose to Nature, almost spent with throwing out such a Variety of Herbs and Fruits for the Support of her Inhabitants. They are neither of them so intense as to injure Life, or long incommode the Business and the Pleasure of it. It is a great Advantage to this Country, that it is situated near the Mouth of several great Rivers, such as the Amstel, Mæse, Rhine, Lek, Iffel, Scheld, and others of the lesser Note, and what greatly adds

adds to its Plenty, Security, and Improvement is this, that four Provinces out of the seven, I mean Holland, Zealand, Friesland, and Groningen lie upon the Sea and constitute its chief Wealth and Greatness, two of the other three with the Towns in Brabant, States, Flanders, and elsewhere make the Frontiers, and may be considered as the Safety and Defence of the Rest.

The almost infinite Number of Canals and Sluices into which the Country is cut, the Waters of which abound with various Kinds of Fish, furnish out great Advantages in point of domestick Commerce, they facilitate Carriage, promote Diligence, and Industry, exercise the Skill, and employ the Labour of Multitudes, enabling them to contribute to the Wants of others whose Situation is less commodious, and to increase their Substance by promoting the Happiness of their Fellow Creatures.

I may venture to say, that no Country in the known World of equal Magnitude can exhibit half the Number of beautiful Cities, populous Towns and Villages all neat and clean, the Inhabitants of which are distinguished for their Sobriety and In-

• dustry, so that in the Summer Season Hol-
 • land, and especially the Province by way of
 • Distinction so called, may without a Com-
 • pliment be denominated an earthly Para-
 • dise, an Eden or the Garden of God.

II. We are both by our Situation and the
 • Genius of our People a trading Nation, a
 • Circumstance which however low it may
 • seem on the first mention, will appear on
 • the whole a distinguished Blessing, and a
 • Source of the noblest Improvements, and
 • the sweetest Enjoyments of human Life.

The first Origin of Commerce seems to
 have been this, when a great Number of
 People occupy a small Tract of Land, the
 Produce of which is scarce sufficient to an-
 swer their Consumption, the Necessaries of
 Life become dear, that all who are pos-
 sessed of Property are obliged to live fru-
 gally, those who are destitute of it must
 work or be burdensome to the Community,
 to which they belong; if they lie upon
 the Sea Coast they will naturally turn
 their Thoughts to Navigation and Traf-
 fick, to supply the Defects of their own
 Country from distant Quarters, to pro-
 cure whatever Nature can need, fancy,
 wish,

wish, or even Luxury consume. This appears to me, to be pretty much the Case here, we have a Multitude of People, our Country is small, Land is at a high Price. The Interest of Money is low and can seldom be much improved by Purchases so that many are led to plow the Ocean in quest of Gain, the Greatness of which often makes them ample amends for the Risque they run, and produces Fifty or a Hundred *per Cent.* and sometimes Two. Hence it comes to pass that this Nation has almost through Necessity become a mighty Seat of Commerce, and aggrandised herself above all others of equal Extent, she has multiplied her Merchants as the Stars of Heaven, and they are reckoned the most useful, not to say the most honourable Members of the State and its grand Support.

I verily believe no Country in the World can be found in which such an immense Trade has been carried on, as in the four maritime Provinces of this Republick, and if we consider how few native Materials it produces towards the Building and Rigging of Ships, the Inconvenience of its principal Harbours

Harbours, the dangerous Navigation of the *Texel*. We cannot sufficiently admire the unconquerable Spirit of Commerce which triumphs over all Obstacles, and is even animated by its Dangers.

This Republick has risen to its opulence and grandeur, by the Dint of unwearied Industry, Oeconomy, and the Improvement of the Product of other Nations, she has been able to lend her Seamen and her Vessels to other Countries, and thus has made the World itself pay her Tribute: She may be looked upon as a publick Storehouse or Magazine full of the Productions of every Country, which are bought in at a low Price and sold out at a high one, and sometimes sent back to their native Climes unspeakably increased in Value.

In short all Sorts of Commodities both for Food and cloathing, Ornament, Ease, and Pleasure, such as the Silks of Persia, the Spices of India, and the Gems of Golconda are here to be purchased with Money, * ~~which~~ the Blessings and Advantages result-

* Money is the Cry, or according to the common Proverb, Geld is de Ziel van de Negotie, that is Money is the Soul of Trade.

resulting both to Individuals and Societies .
 from the Encouragement of Trade and .
 Commerce are innumerable. For Instance, .
 Trade in all its honest Branches is a Friend .
 to Mankind, it employs the bodily Organs, .
 wears off the Rust of Indolence, exercises .
 the Faculties of the Mind, and is the most .
 effectual Antidote against anxious Fears, .
 and that Spleen and Perverseness which pre- .
 vails among the idle and unemployed.—It .
 enlarges the Notions of Men, creates a .
 more humane and extensive Spirit of Bene- .
 volence, tends to form a publick Character, .
 and opens that Contraction of the Mind .
 which generally attends those who have but .
 little Conversation with the World; it is .
 the Source of Wealth which if honestly got .
 and moderately possessed is a great Blessing; .
 hence the Relief of the Indigent, the Suc- .
 cour of the Oppressed, and the Pleasures of .
 Justice and Charity. Trade is the Mother .
 of Science too, and there is scarce a disco-
 vered Truth in Nature which is not more
 or less beholden to it, for its search and
 publication; Numbers, Proportions, Me-
 chanicks, Geography, Natural Philosophy,
 and

and Astronomy, with their several Appendages, have sometimes owed their Origin always their Support and Improvement to the Commerce of Men with each other, in fine, by this Medium the Possessions and Pleasures of the World are mutually communicated and divided.—But above all, Trade is the Parent of Liberty, and cannot well flourish except under a free Government, witness the three greatest trading Cities in the World, London, Amsterdam, and Hamburgh: Pray what occasioned the Ruin of the Trade of Antwerp, but the arbitrary *in* Government of that bloody human Butcher the Duke of Alva, and the Civil Wars that raged in the Low Countries, by which this Paragon of Cities was twice plundered and a considerable Part of it burnt down in the Year 1576; this intimidated the Merchants who fled to Amsterdam, which was then a Place of no great Account, but is now one of the grandest, the loftiest and most flourishing Cities in the whole World.

The Case seems to be this, when Men have once acquired Property they become jealous of its preservation, and watchful
least

least it should be wrested from them by Ambition or Avarice, they think when they have once got it, they have a right to enjoy it, and therefore Trade will naturally lead them to seek Protection under a System of Laws founded on the Rights of Human Kind, and contrived for the Safety of every Individual as far as can be consistent with the well Being of the Whole.

But I imagine enough has been said on this Topic, and therefore I go on to take Notice of some other important Instances of the Goodness of God to this Country, Liberty both Civil and Religious. O Liberty, thou charming Name; all Nature feels thy Influence and pays thee Homage.

You are born free, not the Slaves of mere Will and Humour, the Subjects of Tyranny and Usurpation, but you live under a Constitution by which your natural Rights as Men, Citizens, and Christians are guarded and secured to you. Your Persons are screened from Violence, none may invade your Peace and Security without becoming obnoxious to Punishment. Every Article of your Property, your Gold, your

D

Silver,

• Silver, your Fame, your Families are all
 • defended, by the good and equitable Go-
 • vernment under which you live. Liber-
 • ty spreads an Air of Elegance and Orna-
 • ment all around. Greece and Rome arose
 • Mistresses of the World, famous through
 • all Ages for every exquisite Production of
 • Skill, every Embellishment and Improve-
 • ment of Life, because they were the Pa-
 • troneſſes of Liberty, and in all Countries
 • that are free, there is a Face of Joy, Plen-
 • ty, and Happineſs, even amongſt the mean-
 • eſt of the People; and particularly in Eng-
 • land, where Liberty erects her lovely
 • Countenance, and ſmiles upon the Fe-
 • licity of her darling Children.

In a Country not a great Way from
 hence, they pique themſelves on their Po-
 litenefs and Grandeur, but what is there in
 the Body of the People but a wretched Ap-
 pearance of Poverty and Want, except in
 their Armies and Courts? There indeed a
 mighty Glare of Opulence ſhines, poor
 Conſolation to the oppreſſed Nation whoſe
 Subſtance is drained to ſupport it, but Free-
 dom ſhall render the meaneſt Part of the
 Globe

Globe Competitor for Beauty, and preferable for Pleasure to the selectest Portion of the Fertile East without it.

To this let me add that you have the free Exercise of your Religion, and permitted to worship God according to the Dictates of your Consciences, you are in Possession of a Religion which is best calculated to make you happy here and hereafter; many Nations on the Face of the Earth are falling down to worship Stocks and Stones, nay some, if we are to credit the Records of History, pay Homage to Crocodiles, Dogs, and Cats, to Apes and Monkeys, but you have the Honour to worship the living and true God; how many Countries are absorbed in the gross Follies of Mahomet, whose ridiculous Bible, impure Principles, and contemptible Observances, hold half the World in Chains of Absurdity and Vice? But you have a better Name than these and are the Disciples of the Son of God

How many Countries are there where Popery is the established Religion as it was once here, and where they continue to worship an unknown God? But thanks to Pro-

vidence, Reformation has spread thro' our
 Land, in consequence of which we renounce
 the false and foolish Claims of the Bishop of
 Rome; and may laugh at the Thunder of
 his Bull. In this Republick no Compul-
 sion is used in Matters of Religion, no
 wracking, torturing, and burning for what
 is called Heresy, but Conscience is free to
 all, you have the Scriptures to search into,
 you read them in your own native Lan-
 guage, they testify of Christ and lead to
 eternal Life. O happy Portion! God has
 not dealt so with many other Nations, O
 how rich? how fair are your Privileges?
 With what Zeal and Ardour did your brave
 Fore-fathers ever renowned for their Cour-
 age and Love of Liberty, long and pray
 for them? and with what nobleness of Spi-
 rit did they defend them from the repeated
 Attacks of bloody minded Men under the
 auspicious Conduct of William the first,
 the Gallant and the Brave Prince of Orange
 and Nassau, and many others of that an-
 tient and illustrious House to whom, under
 God, this Republick owes its Safety, its
 Preservation, its Religion, its Liberty, and
 its all. —*May it be long preserved.*

To

To conclude the Description, here is a .
 general Indulgence in all Points that are .
 necessary to the Quiet and Pleasure of .
 Life; here you have People from various .
 Nations and of various Tongues; ~~and~~ .
~~who~~, who if they behave themselves .
 peaceably, are defended from the Severity .
 of Justice or the Strokes of Fortune, * and .
 enjoy their own Manners, Customs, and .
 Religions, and more Blessings too than they .
 did in the Places from whence they came, ~~and~~ ~~and~~
 and probably more than they deserve, espe- =
 cially if it be considered how forward many =
 of them are to abuse and vilify the very =
 Country that gives them Protection. Pray =
 God mend them.

Thus have I sketched out to you the
 principal Out-lines of my Subject, which is
 abundantly too Copious for a single Ser-
 mon, and have in the Course of it pointed
 out a Variety of Circumstances which con-
 curred to make this Republick distinguished
 among the Nations of the Earth, and which
 I shall not repeat.

III. Give me leave now in the third Place
 to lay before you the Uses we ought to
 make

* Vid. Temple on the Netherlands, page 124. Edin-
 burgh Edit. 1754.

make of such Representations as these, or offer some plain Thoughts that may be more particularly suitable to this Day's Solemnity.

I shall only mention three Circumstances which will comprehend the whole Design of our meeting together this Day, entitled in the Proclamation Dank, Váft, and Bededag, that is, Thanksgiving, Fasting, and Prayer Day.

I. The Survey we have been taking of our national Happiness should inspire us with the most ardent Gratitude to God, and praise ye the Lord, is the most just and natural Conclusion we can make amidst such a rich Confluence of Blessings communicated to us.—O what Heart shall not glow with genuine Thankfulness? What Lips not overflow with spirited Praises? Our Deliverance from that bloody and destructive War, which for several Years past raged with great Fury upon this Continent in Silesia and Brandenburg, Saxony, Hesse, and Hanover, ought to be had in perpetual Remembrance, by all true Christians and Lovers of their Country; about this Time Twelve-month the Restoration of the Peace afforded Matter of general Joy to every human

human and beneficent Soul, though “* at
 “ the same Time some dark and gloomy
 “ Clouds menacing Ruin and Destruction
 “ continued to hang over some Parts of
 “ Europe, but now blessed be the Name
 “ of the Lord, they are entirely dispersed
 “ and a general Peace is happily commenc-
 “ ed, and we hope too on a solid Founda-
 “ tion.” O let us thank the God of Mercy
 for this inestimable Gift, and sing Praises to
 his Name; praise the Lord, O Jerusalem,
 praise thy God, O Holland, for he has
 strengthened the Bars of thy Gates, he has
 blessed thy Children within thee, he mak-
 eth Peace in thy Borders, and filleth thee
 with the finest of Wheat; here let me call
 upon you to praise God for your inestimable
 Liberties, both Civil and Religious, for your
 extensive Trade and Commerce by which
 this Country, and especially the maritime
 Provinces, are supported and made rich,
 be truly thankful for that Share of it which
 you have had; for by this Means you have
 acquired Fulness of Bread and your Cup
 runneth over, nay, you may Boast of
 your Thousands and Ten Thousands.
 Praise the Lord that you enjoy the Sweets
 of

* Vid. Proclamation,

of domestick Peace and Comfort, that you have quiet at Home and quiet in your own Consciences, and Pleasure in your various Relations, O praise God that you are blessed with the Knowledge of himself, that you have his Statutes and his Judgements to direct you in the Way of Peace, and to fit you for a glorious Immortality.

Praise the Lord O my Soul.

Again, while we are praising God for his great Mercies to the united Provinces, let those of us who are Britons, or are descended from such, not forget our native Country.

O Britannia, O Patria, quando te Aspiciam? * If I forget thee, let my Right-hand forget her cunning, if I do not remember thee, let my Tongue cleave to the Roof of my Mouth. If I should never more tread thy happy Ground, or breath thy healthful Air I will still love thee, for thou art the Womb that bore me and the Breasts that gave me suck, the Desire of my Eyes and the Darling of my Soul, for my Brethren and Companions Sake, for my Kinsmen according to the Flesh, I will ever say Peace be within thee. May thou and

Holland

* Psal. cxxxvii. 5, 6.

Holland be always united in the Bonds of pure Affection and Friendship.

II. Whilst we are praising God for his Mercies to us as a Nation, let us be deeply humbled before him with Fasting, that we have made no better Improvement of them. Don't let us vainly imagine that our own Merits have distinguished us? No, for should we survey the Inhabitants of the Land, we should find that Vice prevails amongst all Ranks and Orders of Men, alas we are a sinful People, a People laden with Iniquity, Transgressions abound and the Love of many waxes Cold, so that we may justly tremble lest God should change this pleasant and goodly Land into Barrenness, especially if we “* reflect on our Situation
“ amongst so many Waters, which have
“ often threatened our Ruin, and do now
“ actually overspread a considerable Tract
“ of Ground not far from hence.”—God might if he pleased give us Bondage for Freedom, and transplant our Religion to a Country, who would improve it better than we have done. An awful Warning of this Kind is afforded us by the Eastern Nations, and Greece once the Seat of Opu-

E

lence

* Vid. the Proclamation.

lence and Freedom; and its fair Cities the Realms of pure and genuine Christianity, for their Misimprovement of it, are now sunk as low in Misery, as Ignorance Superstition, and Slavery can plunge them.

May this never be our unhappy Case. But perhaps you will say what must we do to avert the Indignation of the most High? Where-with shall we come before the Lord, † and bow ourselves before God? Shall we come before him with burnt Offerings, with Calves of a Year old? Will the Lord be pleased with Thousands of Rams, or with ten thousand Rivers of Oil? Shall we give our First-born for our Transgression, the Fruit of our Body for the Sin of our Soul? O no, He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what the Lord requires of thee to do Justice, to love Mercy and to walk humbly with thy God?

The Lord's Voice crieth unto the City, and to the Country saying, repent ye, for why will ye die? Humble yourselves as in the Dust before me with Sorrow, Fasting, and Repentance. In vain will it be to fast and to pray, to bow down your Heads like a Bulrush if your Hearts are not inwardly affected,

† Micah. vi. 6.

affected, if you are not brought to true Repentance, to Reformation of Life and Manners, and to a saving Faith in Christ Jesus.

* Righteousness exalteth a Nation, but Sin is the Reproach of any People.

III. And lastly, whilst we are praising God for our national Benefits, and humbling ourselves before him for the ill Use we have made of them, let us earnestly pray for the Continuance of his Blessing and Protection.—That the publick Peace and Happiness may be preserved, that we may be delivered from Inundations and Floods of Water, and that all good Things may await us. Let us pray for our Governors both Supreme and Subordinate, for the illustrious House of Orange and particularly the Prince our much beloved and hereditary Stadtholder, that under the Conduct of that wise and worthy Personage to whom the Care of his Education is committed, he may be trained up to fill with Splendor and Usefulness that important Station for which he is intended.—And in order to draw the Blessing of God upon us and our Country, let us take care that our Lives express one continued and uniform Act of Obedience; for if they do not,
it

it will be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the Day of Judgement than for us, for to whom much is given of such will much be required.

In the fair Fruits then of Love to God and Christ, and of Justice, Truth, Benevolence, and Faithfulness to our Fellow-creature let us perpetually abound; that God may be pleased still to strengthen the Bars of our Gates and to bless our Children within us, to prolong the Peace in our Borders and the Prosperity within our Palaces, * that our Peace may be as the River and our Righteousness as the Waves of the Sea.

† Happy is the Nation that is in such a Case as this; yea, happy is that People whose God is the Lord. *Amen.*

* Psal. cxliv. 15.

† Isa. xlviii. 18.

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